

Valencia Foundation
Report to the Board of Trustees
September 2019

During the 2018-19 academic year, the foundation awarded \$8.2 million, including \$2.4 million in scholarships and \$5.6 million for programs. Last year, \$127,000 was disbursed for peer-reviewed endowed chairs. Meet this year's class: [19-20 endowed chairs](#).

Since 2000, when Dr. Shugart joined Valencia, the college's foundation has disbursed \$52.6 million. And the endowment has grown from \$15.8 million to \$74.8 million. The foundation team also raised \$69.7 million during that time. In the past year, the foundation recorded \$5.8 million in donations, thanks to very generous benefactors and, in particular, extraordinary gifts from the [Helios Education Foundation](#), [Walt Disney World](#) and [Orlando Health](#).

The foundation has just shy of \$100 million in net assets.

For the past two years, the college awarded 98 percent of endowed foundation scholarships, which is about as high as possible.

[Taste for Learning](#) raised \$335,000 for first-generation scholarships in May, and has generated \$3.7 million in 10 events.

The [foundation board of directors](#) is led by 45 community leaders who volunteer their time, talents and resources to help support Valencia. The foundation is in the quiet phase of a [\\$30-million major gifts campaign](#) which is designed to fund:

- expanded student access,
- signature academic programs,
- accelerated skills training, and
- new faculty fellowships.

These priorities bubbled up from deep within the college and were vetted by college leaders to determine the final campaign pillars and programs. Please consider making a gift to support a specific program that is meaningful to you. To learn more, visit the [Valencia Promise](#).

Each year, the faculty and staff giving campaign engages new and veteran employees in investing in the students we serve in our classrooms every day. About 200 staff members donate regularly through payroll deduction. A total of 240 donated last year through multiple channels, which also include Taste, individual program and scholarship contributions, and deferred gifts.

Scholarships are awarded by a team of volunteers. The 2018-19 [Valencia Foundation Scholarship Committee](#) was chaired by Amy Kleeman, assistant vice president of college transitions, and Elvin Cruz, administrative manager of foundation scholarships; the committee comprised 83 college employees, including administrative assistants, program advisers, directors and professors. Twenty-one Valencia retirees and alumni also participated. If you are interested in learning more about the [scholarship committee](#), please contact Elvin at ecruz52@valenciacollege.edu or 407-582-3154.

The numbers are critical and of special attention to our auditors, accountants, board members and donors. But the more important stories are about the faculty and students who have benefited from Valencia's philanthropy.

Our scholarship recipients keep in touch long after they've graduated. Some of our faculty will remember Christian Pinto Rey, whose family moved from Colombia to the United States during his childhood.

His brothers became commercial truck drivers, but living in the shadow of NASA rockets, Christian decided to pursue engineering. Books and tuition were beyond his family's capacity. Thanks to scholarships, financial aid and hard work, Christian enrolled at Valencia and completed his associate's degree in two years. He served as a math tutor. His stellar grades earned him a four-year, recurring summer internship at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, where he inspected the interior of the Space Shuttle Atlantis for its final journey to the International Space Station. In fact, when all employees were invited to sign the inside of the shuttle before launch, he left his mark, recognizing the first two schools that had taken him to incredible heights. He signed his name, and [honored both Valencia and Embry-Riddle](#).

About his Valencia experience, Christian says: "Whether it's building bridges or building computer networks, the analytical skills and technological expertise of Valencia's engineering and architecture programs will teach you to solve problems using science, engineering and mathematics. With high-tech equipment, internships, advanced laboratories and studios, you'll be able to get plenty of hands-on experience too."

Today, Christian is a test and evaluation engineer at Boeing, where he is working on the space launch system for NASA's history-making mission to Mars. He is pursuing a master's degree in engineering management. Christian's wife, Wendy, is also a Valencia Foundation scholar and first-generation Valencia alumna who received her associate's degree in 2012. The couple has a 5-year-old son and an 18-month-old daughter. Immediately after the birth of their little boy, she enrolled at the University of Alabama, where she completed a bachelor's degree in nursing.

They wish to serve as role models for their children, Christian explains: "We can bestow our experiences on our children. If they are smart, they will work hard and keep moving forward."

Learn more about Christian's journey in [Vitae](#).

Christian, Wendy and other deserving, gifted students just need a chance to succeed. Many would not be able to attend college without the generosity of scholarship donors. If you would like to make a secure gift of any size to a Valencia program or general scholarships, please visit the foundation [website](#).

Thank you to each of you who has made Valencia learners a philanthropic priority.

Please mark your calendars: 2019 foundation board gatherings

Tuesday, **Sept. 17**, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Gus Henderson Scholarship Reception

Thursday, **Sept. 26**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: **Full Board Meeting**

Thursday, **Oct. 17**, evening: **Storytelling Opportunity**

Thursday, **Nov. 7**, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: National Philanthropy Day

Wednesday, **Nov. 13**, 8 to 11 a.m.: **Finance Committee**

Thursday, **Dec. 12**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: **Full Board Meeting**

Saturday, **Jan. 4**, 7:30 p.m.: Sandy in Concert

Thursday, **Jan. 23**, evening: **Storytelling Opportunity**

Wednesday, **Feb. 19**, 8 to 11 a.m.: **Finance Committee**

Thursday and Friday, **Feb. 20 and 21**, overnight: **Foundation Board Retreat**

Thursday, **April 16**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: **Full Board Meeting**

Tuesday, **April 21**, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: **Endowed Chair Dinner**

Wednesday, **May 13**, 8 to 11 a.m.: **Finance Committee**

Thursday, **May 14**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: **Full Board Meeting**